

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-8: Cancelled

Claim 9 (Currently Amended) A handheld culinary utensil for holding food objects and limiting spillage, comprising a planar base having an open end, first and second lateral side walls extending upwardly along opposing first and second lateral sides of the planar base and an arcuate handle formed by a rearwardly extending projection integral with the planar base and curved upwardly from the planar base and generally forwardly toward the open end in an arcuate manner forming a continuous curve from the planar base, the arcuate handle forming a generally tubular configuration having a generally circular transverse cross-section, wherein said arcuate handle comprises a terminating end edge ~~of the generally forwardly curving section,~~ the terminating end edge being generally rearwardly and generally downwardly facing and being positioned proximate the planar base, thereby forming a substantially closed cylinder having open ends thereof, wherein said open ends are substantially closed ~~cylinder~~ is bounded and substantially covered by the first and second lateral side walls, and the arcuate handle being adapted to be held by a user's hand with no other handle for gripping said utensil.

Claim 10 (Cancelled)

Claim 11 (Cancelled)

Claim 12 (Cancelled)

Claim 13 (Cancelled)

Claim 14 (Cancelled)

Claim 15 (Previously Amended) The handheld culinary utensil according to claim 9, wherein the planar base, first and second lateral side walls and arcuate handle are fabricated of stainless steel.

Claim 16 (Previously Amended) The handheld culinary utensil according to Claim 9, wherein the first and second lateral side walls each further comprises a rearwardly extending flange having a radius substantially corresponding to the curvature of the arcuate handle thereby enclosing opposing lateral open ends of the arcuate handle.

Claim 17 (Previously Amended) The handheld culinary utensil according to Claim 16, wherein the first and second lateral side walls each further comprise upper edges which taper forward from the rearwardly extending flange and which are co-terminus with the open end of the planar base.

Claim 18 (Cancelled)

Claim 19 (Cancelled)

Claim 20 (Cancelled)